

State of Indiana

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr., Governor
Becky Skillman, Lt. Governor

State and Federal Benefit Information



Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

Charles T. "Tom" Applegate, Director
Jim Holdeman, Deputy Director

Commissioners

Cal Cree
Jim Koutz
Loran Rutledge
Dave Havely

Indiana VA Medical Centers

1481 W. 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2884
(317) 554-0000
Toll Free 1-888-878-6889

2121 Lake Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-5199
(219) 426-5431
Toll Free 1-800-360-8387

1700 East 38th St.
Marion, IN 46953-4589
(765) 674-3321
Toll Free 1-800-360-8387

VA Clinics

Adam Benjamin Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic
9330 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307-8602
(219) 662-5000
Toll Free 1-800-644-1243

Evansville VA Outpatient Clinic
500 East Walnut St
Evansville, IN 47713-2499
(812) 465-6202
Toll Free 1-800-772-8740

Terre Haute VA Outpatient Clinic
110 West Honey Creek Pkwy.
Terre Haute, IN 47802
(812) 232-2890
Toll Free 1-800-427-5882

Lafayette VA Outpatient Clinic
3851 N. River Rd.
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 464-2280
Toll Free 1-800-320-8387

Bloomington VA Outpatient Clinic
455 S. Landmark Ave.
Bloomington, IN. 47403
(812) 336-5723
Toll Free 1-877- 683-0685

Dearborn County Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1600 Flossie Drive
Greendale, IN 47025
812-539-2313

Muncie/Anderson VA Outpatient Clinic
3500 W. Purdue Ave.
Muncie, IN. 47304
(765) 284-6822

South Bend VA Outpatient Clinic
5735 South Ironwood Rd.
South Bend, IN. 46614
(574) 299-4847
Toll Free 1-866-436-1291

(VA Clinic listings continued on the back inside cover page.)

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

The mission of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist Hoosier Veterans, service personnel, their dependents and/or survivors in obtaining every benefit and advantage due them under the laws of the State of Indiana and the United States. The Department works with a network of certified County Veteran Service Officers who are there to assist veterans with information and the preparation of paperwork at no cost. Some of the State benefits that may apply are:

Remission of Fees for the Child(ren) of a Disabled Veteran (CDV)

The natural or legally adopted child(ren) of a disabled Indiana veteran may be eligible for remission of fees at any state-supported post secondary school or university in the State of Indiana. This applies at any age as long as the child was adopted by age 24 and the child is a resident of Indiana. The remission of fees/CDV program is a State of Indiana provided program and is not the federal GI Bill education program. CDV students can only use this benefit at a state supported university/college. Each college/university has its own student residency requirements.

The rules are:

1. The veteran must have served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of wartime, or performed duty equally hazardous that was recognized by the award of a service or campaign medal of the United States (the military discharge must reflect that medal); The veteran must also have been a resident of the State of Indiana for not less than 3 consecutive years during his/her lifetime.

Eligible wartime dates are:

WW I: April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918

WWII: December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946

Korea: June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955

Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

Gulf War: August 2, 1990 - present

And:

2. The veteran must be declared service-connected disabled or suffered a service connected death as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense (if the Department of Defense, the veteran must supply official documentation),

Or:

3. The veteran received a Purple Heart Medal. (Official documentation of the award is required)

Or:

4. The veteran was a resident of Indiana at the time of entry into the service and was declared a POW or MIA after January 1, 1960.(Only under-graduate study is eligible if attending under this clause)

Or:

5. The student was a veteran-related pupil at the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home. Students qualifying under this section must contact the Children's home for more information at (765) 345-5141.

The Remission of Fees is good for 124 semester hours of education and may be used for either undergraduate or graduate level work. The amount remitted is 100% of tuition and all mandatory fees. Ref: IC 20-12-19-1.

Please Note: The remission of fees/CDV program is a State of Indiana provided program and is not the federal GI Bill education program. CDV students can only use this benefit at a state supported university/college in Indiana.

In-State Tuition Rates for Active Duty

Active duty military personnel stationed in Indiana and their dependents are eligible for resident tuition rates at any state-supported college or university.

Medal of Honor Recipients

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to reimburse expenses to Hoosier veterans who are Medal of Honor recipients who travel in Indiana to give speeches.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

The spouse, parent, grandparents or siblings of veterans ordered to active duty deployments in the Armed Forces or the National Guard and who are employed by an employer who employs over 50 people, are eligible for an unpaid leave of absence of up to 10 days. The leave can be taken in the 30-day period after the service member receives their orders, while they are home on leave during the deployment, or in the 30-day period at the end of their deployment.

Jury Duty

Individuals on active military duty are exempt from serving on a jury.

Property Tax Deductions

Property tax deductions are available to disabled Hoosier Veterans under the following conditions:

1. A \$12,480 dollar deduction is available to a veteran who:

- a. Served at least 90 days of honorable service.

And:

- b. Are totally disabled (not necessarily service-connected but the disability must be evidenced by a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pension certificate).

Or:

- c. Are at least 62 years old and 10% service-connected disabled.

Note: This deduction is not available if the assessed value of the real property owned by the veteran is in excess of \$143,160.

2. A \$24,960 tax deduction is available for veterans who:

- a. Served honorably in the Armed Forces during any period of wartime.

And:

- b. Are at least 10% service-connected disabled.

3. A \$37,440 tax deduction is available for any veteran who: (This is a combination of tax code 1 and tax code 2 and in the event the property is valued above \$143,160 the tax code 1 portion is not applicable)

a. Served honorably during any period of wartime.

And:

b. Is 100% service connected-disabled

Or:

c. Is at least 62 years of age with at least a 10% service-connected disability.

Notes:

1. A statutory disability rating for Pulmonary TB is not eligible.
2. Active duty for training with the National Guard or Reserves is eligible only if the disability occurs from an event during the period of active duty and that duty was performed during wartime.
3. The surviving spouse of the veteran is eligible for the veteran's tax deduction. The spouse must apply in his or her own name. Ref: IC 6-1.1-12-14, IC 61.1-12-15.

Income Tax Exemption

Current members of the active branches of service, National Guard and Reserves are eligible to receive an exemption of \$5,000 on their state income tax return. Veterans who are military retirees over age 60 are eligible for the same exemption.

Military Pay State Tax Exempt if Deployed to Combat Zone

Military pay earned while under orders to a combat zone is exempt from state tax. The exemption period begins with the date on the orders and ends when the orders end.

Eligibility: Members of the Guard and Reserves.

Note: This exemption and the \$5,000 exemption cannot be claimed on the same return. It must be one or the other, but not both.

Women Veterans Coordinator

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs has on staff a Women Veterans Coordinator to assist female veterans with claims and applications and to assist with matters which may be female-unique.

Employment Assistance

With funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development provides services to Hoosier Veterans. Through the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), and the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Program, Workforce Development Offices throughout the State are equipped to assist Hoosier Veterans with their transition from the service to civilian life. The DVOP's specialize in tailored training and job placement opportunities for veterans with service-connected disabilities. LVER's coordinate services provided veterans including counseling, testing, and identifying training and employment opportunities. Contact the nearest Indiana Workforce Development Office and ask for the location of the closest veteran's representative.

- Indiana Department of Workforce Development:
<http://www.in.gov/dwd>
- To make informed employment and education choices visit
<http://www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition/>

Offices having Veterans' representatives include:

Anderson	(765) 642-4981 ext 241 & 240
Auburn	(260) 925-0124 ext 225 & 227
Bedford	(812) 279-4400 ext 227
Bloomington	(812) 331-6002 ext 242 & 243
Columbus	(812) 376-3351 ext 23 & 22
Elkhart	(574) 295-0105 ext 19, 20 & 21
Evansville	(812) 424-4473 ext 238 233, 234 & 239
Fort Wayne	(260) 745-3555 ext 356 351, 357 & 352
Franklin	(317) 736-5531
Gary	(219) 981-1520 ext 325 & 339
Hammond	(219) 933-8332 ext 308 309 & 310
Indy Westside	(317) 246-5400 (317) 246-5415 (317) 246-5416
Indy East	(317) 358-4500 (317) 358-4522 (317) 358-4523 (317) 358-4524

Kokomo	(765) 459-0571 ext 3021, 3013 & 3036
Lafayette	(765) 474-5411 ext 134, 138 & 136
LaPorte	(219) 362-2175
Lawrenceburg	(812) 537-1117 ext 234
Linton	(812) 847-4479
Madison	(812) 265-3734 ext 207
Marion	(765) 668-8911 ext 225 or 224
Martinsville	(765) 342-3324
Muncie	(765) 289-1861 ext 152 & 153
New Albany	(812) 948-6102 ext 122 140 & 127
New Castle	(765) 529-3010
Portage	(219) 762-6592
Richmond	(765) 962-8591 ext 211 213, & 214
Shelbyville	(317) 392-3279 ext 308 & 332
South Bend	(574) 233-6175 ext 139 & 142
Terre Haute	(812) 234-6602 ext 369 370, & 372
Vincennes	(812) 882-8770

In addition to the above, the State Merit System provides for the addition of points for veterans applying for merit positions or promotions within State Government. Ref: IC 4-15-2-18.

GI Bill Education Benefits The State Approving Agency

The State Approving Agency (SAA) is a division within the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs tasked with the responsibility of approving education and training programs for veterans with GI Bill education benefits. In addition to public colleges/universities and other education programs, there are more than 350 approved apprenticeship/OJT programs in the State. These apprenticeships/OJT programs are both union and non union and are found in both the public and private sector. Approved OJT programs are mostly found in the law enforcement and firefighter fields. In addition, the SAA approves medical/hospital based programs, flight schools, real estate and barber/beauty schools and state owned certification tests.

- Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training:
<http://bat.wdsc.org/>
 1. Click on Search Sponsor Database
 2. Select State
 3. Select County
 4. Click on VIEW

Contact the State Approving Agency at (317) 232-3917 or toll-free at 1-800-400-4520 or our web site at www.in.gov/veteran for information on those education and training programs approved for GI Bill educational benefits. For information on approved private education programs, contact the Commission on Proprietary Education at (317) 232-1320 or on their web site at www.in.gov/cope.

For GI Bill Education information please go to pages 20 -22 of the federal benefits portion of this brochure.

The Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home, located in Knightstown, provides for the care and education of the children of veterans and members of the active Armed Forces. There are entrance provisions for other relatives of veterans if space is available at the Home. Eligibility rules and applications are available from: Superintendent, ISSCH, 11410 N. State Road 140, Knightstown IN. 46148-9718. Or, you may phone (765) 345-5141. Ref: IC 16-33-4-1 to IC 6-1.1-12-1

Vehicle Operator License & License Plates

Operator's License

When the operator's license of an individual who is temporarily residing outside Indiana because of service in the armed forces of the United States has expired, the license remains valid for ninety (90) days following the person's discharge from service in the armed forces. To obtain a renewed license, the individual must do the following:

1. Apply for renewal of the operator's license during the ninety (90) day period following the individual's discharge.
2. Show proof of the individual's discharge from service in the armed forces when applying for the renewal.

Ref. IC 9-24-12-6(e).

Hoosier Veteran Plates

Any resident of the State who was honorably separated from the active Armed Forces can purchase a Hoosier Veteran license plate. Simply take your DD-214 or your Discharge Certificate to your local BMV office and request the special plate. Veterans may choose from five 4-digit abbreviations to identify their particular branch of service: ARMY, NAVY, USMC, USAF, and USCG. Plate numbers 1 through 100, including low-numbered motorcycle plates, are approved by the Director, IDVA.

Support Our Troops Plates

Effective January 1, 2007, this special plate with a yellow ribbon is now available for purchase by all Hoosiers, whether or not they are a veteran. Most of the proceeds from this plate will go into the Military Family Relief Fund.

Disabled Veteran Plates

Disabled Veteran (DAV) plates are handicap plates in the State of Indiana. Eligibility for these plates is tied to the VA disability rating and is strictly limited to those individuals who have serious mobility impairment due to a service-connected disability. Ratings of less than 40% must be accompanied by a doctor's statement. Ratings related to mental conditions do not qualify. DAV plates that only say DAV and do not have the universal handicap symbol are only valid in Indiana for parking purposes. Those plates that

do not have the universal handicap symbol may be exchanged free of charge at their local BMV. Applications may be obtained from either the BMV or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-18-1, IC 9-1818-2.

Ex-Prisoner of War Plates

The POW license plate is available to all ex-prisoners of war or to the surviving spouse of a deceased POW. Applications for these plates are available from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the eligibility of the applicant. Ref: IC 9-18-17-1.

Purple Heart Plates

Any Hoosier Veteran who has received the Purple Heart Medal is authorized to have these special license plates. Applications may be obtained at the BMV or from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran must present official documentation of the award, and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility. Ref: IC 9-18-19-1, IC 9-1819-2, IC 9-18-19-3.

Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers License

State law provides that any wartime veteran who has an honorable discharge shall be granted these licenses by all cities and counties free of charge. See your county auditor. Ref: IC 25-25-2-1. (IC 25-25-2-3 exempts any county having a consolidated city from this rule.)

Vital Documents For Veterans Benefits

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indiana State Archives have copies of DD-214's on file for many Hoosier Veterans who entered the service from Indiana. Additionally, many National Guard NGB Forms 22 are available. Copies of these will be provided upon request to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The processing time for such a request is usually one or two weeks. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs or your County Veterans Service Officer can assist you with the paperwork to obtain other documents from the federal government. Ref: IC 10-5-7-1.

Delayed High School Diploma

World War I and World War II, Korea and Vietnam Veterans who served between the following dates may apply to the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for issuance of a high school diploma.

WW I: April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918

WWII: December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946

Korea: June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955

Vietnam: Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

In addition the veteran must have:

- attended public or nonpublic high school in Indiana prior to military service
- been a student in good standing
- **not graduated or received a diploma because of leaving high school for military service**
- and, been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States

Veterans, or their surviving spouses or eligible family members, may submit application to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

County Veterans Service Officers:

Ninety-one counties in the State employ a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). These CVSO's are veterans who stand ready to help you with your veteran-related needs. The County Veterans Service Offices have all the forms and other information you may need to obtain service from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the State of Indiana. The Service Officers will assist you in finding the information and resources you need to solve your service-related problems. They are your liaison for all veteran issues.

INDIANA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS DIRECTORY

ADAMS	(260) 724-9398
ALLEN	(260) 449-7861
BARTHOLOMEW	(812) 379-1540
BENTON	(765) 884-1764
BLACKFORD	(765) 348-3151
BOONE	(765) 483-4480
BROWN	(812) 988-5600
CARROLL	(765) 564-2502
CASS	(574) 753-7860

CLARK	(812) 285-6345
CLAY	(812) 448-9015
CLINTON	(765) 659-6389
CRAWFORD	(812) 338-3141
DAVIESS	(812) 254-8678
DEARBORN	(812) 537-8819
DECATUR	(812) 663-3161
DEKALB	(260) 925-0131
DELAWARE	(765) 747-7810
DUBOIS	(812) 481-7090
ELKHART	(574) 523-2342
FAYETTE	(765) 825-8412
FLOYD	(812) 948-5495
FOUNTAIN	(765)-294-2760
FRANKLIN	(765) 647-5721
FULTON	(574) 223-2217
GIBSON	(812) 385-4522
GRANT	(765) 651-2423
GREENE	(812) 384-2031
HAMILTON	(317) 776-9610
HANCOCK	(317) 462-8767
HARRISON	(812) 738-4249
HENDRICKS	(317) 745-9239
HENRY	(765) 529-4305
HOWARD	(765) 456-2511
HUNTINGTON	(260) 358-4863
JACKSON	(812) 358-6180
JASPER	(219) 866-4901
JAY	(260) 726-6914
JEFFERSON	(812) 265-3600
JENNINGS	(812) 352-9169
JOHNSON	(317) 346-4563
KNOX	(812) 885-2539
KOSCIUSKO	(574) 372-2436
LAGRANGE	(260) 463-2488
LAKE	(219) 755-3285
LAPORTE	(219) 326-6808 ext.216
LAWRENCE	(812) 275-6411
MADISON	(765) 641-9651
MARSHALL	(574) 935-8543
MARTIN	(812) 295-2172
MIAMI	(765) 472-3901 ext. 217 & 271
MONROE	(812) 349-2568
MONTGOMERY	(765) 362-4660

MORGAN	(317) 916-3629
NEWTON	(219) 474-6628
NOBLE	(260) 636-2658
OHIO	(812) 438-4075
ORANGE	(812) 723-3600 x 116
OWEN	(812) 829-1859
PARKE	(765) 569-4036
PERRY	(812) 547-2506
PIKE	(812) 354-6245
PORTER	(219) 465-3587
POSEY	(812) 838-8372
PULASKI	(574) 946-3571
PUTNAM	(765) 653-5417
RANDOLPH	(765) 584-9641
RIPLEY	(812) 689-7165
RUSH	(765) 932-3075
ST. JOSEPH	(574) 235-9978
SCOTT	(812) 752-8477
SHELBY	(317) 392-6480
SPENCER	(812) 649-6031
STARKE	(574) 772-9132
STEUBEN	(260) 668-1000 ext. 1060
SULLIVAN	(812) 268-5437
SWITZERLAND	(812) 594-9141
TIPPECANOE	(765) 742-1796
TIPTON	(765) 675-2221
UNION	(765) 458-6981
VAN DERBURGH	(812) 435-5239
VERMILLION	(765) 492-4582 & 1-800-3408155 ext. 149 & 151
VIGO	(812) 462-3261
WABASH	(260) 563-0661 ext. 260
WARREN	(765) 764-0108
WARRICK	(812) 897-6177
WASHINGTON	(812) 883-2063
WAYNE	(765) 973-9207
WELLS	(260) 824-6403
WHITE	(574) 583-5937
WHITLEY	(260) 248-2273

The Veterans Home

The Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette provides nursing and domiciliary care for any Hoosier Veteran with at least one day of wartime service. To qualify you must have been a resident of Indiana for at least three years. The Home is open to both veterans and their spouses. Veterans who are Medicaid-eligible will be required to apply for that benefit. For more information write to the Home at: Indiana Veterans Home, 3851 N. River Rd., West Lafayette, IN. 47906-3762 or call (765) 463-1502. Ref: IC 10-6-1-7.

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery (IVMC)

Located adjacent to the Madison State Hospital and Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana, any veteran eligible to be buried in a national cemetery will be eligible for burial in the IVMC. The spouse of an eligible veteran will also be eligible to be buried there. For an application for burial contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. To schedule an interment contact the Cemetery Superintendent at 1415 North Gate Road, Madison, IN 47250, 812-273-9220/FAX 812-273-9221. Ref: IC 10-5-25.

Burial Allowances:

Each County Auditor is authorized to pay up to an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the burial of a veteran or the veteran's spouse, which may include up to \$100 for the setting of a federal headstone. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge, and an application must be filed with the county auditor in the county of residence. Ref: IC 10-5-3-1.

Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing License

Any Indiana resident who is rated as service-connected disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may purchase a license to hunt and fish in the State of Indiana for a reduced fee. In order to receive this benefit the veteran must complete the Application for Reduced Fee Hunting and Fishing License for Disabled Veterans available from County Veteran Service Officers, or the Department of Natural Resource offices, or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The form verifies that the veteran is service-connected disabled and authorizes the reduced fee and is verified by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Ref: IC 14-22-12-1.5.

Golden Hoosier Passport

A Hoosier Golden Passport provides unlimited admission to all Indiana State owned parks, recreation areas, reservoirs, forests, historic sites, museums, memorials and other Department of Natural Resource (DNR) facilities. The pass is good for one calendar year. Persons eligible for a Disabled American Veteran license plate under IC 9-18-18-1 may purchase the Hoosier Golden Passport at DNR facilities around the State. If you have Disabled American Veteran plates on the vehicle simply drive to the gate and the attendant will sell you the Hoosier Golden Passport. If you do not have the plate but believe you are eligible you will be given a form to request the plate, which you must send to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs for verification.

Former Prisoners of War will receive their Hoosier Golden Passport in the mail after their plates are issued. If you do not receive yours in a reasonable time, or have other plates on your vehicle but are entitled to POW plates, contact the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-622-4931.

NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES

Hoosier Veterans Seamless Transition Program

Eligibility: demobilized members of the National Guard and Reserves, as well as active duty soldiers. This service brings various agencies together at a central location, usually a National Guard armory, to help the veteran with the processing of federal and state claims and applications.

Military Family Relief Fund

Effective January 1, 2007, the families of Hoosier National Guard and Reserve members may apply for emergency grants for food, housing, utilities, medical services, transportation and other essential family support expenses which were caused by the mobilization of the service member. Contact local County Veterans' Service Officer or IDVA at 1-800-400-4520.

Military Pay vs. State Pay

Executive Order 05-18 allows Hoosiers who are employed by the state and who are called to active duty in the Guard or Reserves to receive the difference between their military pay (either state or federal active duty) and their state salary.

Educational Benefits (National Guard):

100% tuition paid when attending state colleges or universities for first Associates or Bachelors degree.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members. Apply through unit education personnel.

Remission of Fees for Service-Connected Death

Public Law 157-2005 (IC 20-12-19.7) provides that the spouse and eligible children of National Guard members who suffered a service-connected death while serving on state or federal active duty, are exempt from the payment of tuition and mandatory fees at any state educational institution (college).

Eligibility: Dependents of Indiana National Guard members. This benefit is administered by the Indiana National Guard.

Employment Assistance

State employees receive 15 days military leave per year.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Exemption from Jury Duty

Indiana National Guard members are exempt from jury duty.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Medical Benefits

National Guard members on State Active Duty are entitled to medical, dental and hospital benefits.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Injury/Death Benefits

National Guard members on State Active Duty: members receive pay, allowance and medical expenses for 90 days. If disabled after 90 days, benefits are the same as federal, including death gratuities, widow's pension and funeral expenses up to \$500.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Group Insurance

(Provided by the Indiana National Guard Association)
\$5,000 for \$2/mo; \$10,000 for \$3.66; \$15,000 for \$5.33;
\$20,000 for \$7.00; \$25,000 for \$8.67/mo; \$50,000 for \$17/mo and family plan of \$5,000/\$10,000 for \$3.66 or \$6.66 + \$1,000 to \$10,000 for each child depending on age.

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

Legal Benefits

Limited arrest immunity to and from drill; A citation for a traffic violation is not a civil process and is not covered by this immunity. Legal defense is available for line-of-duty acts. IC 10-16-7-8

Eligibility: Indiana National Guard members.

FEDERAL BENEFITS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (www.va.gov) is a federal agency with regional offices throughout the U.S. The VA Regional Office processes claims for VA benefits including disability compensation, pension, vocational training for disabled veterans, burial allowances, and survivor's compensation and pension. In Indiana the VA Regional Office is located at 575 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-15871. In-state toll-free 1-800-827-1000. Home Loan Guaranty benefits are processed by the VA Home Loan Guarantee Office, Winston-Salem, NC; toll-free 1-888-244-6711. Education benefits for Indiana veterans are processed by the VA Regional Processing Center, P.O. Box 66830, St. Louis, MO; toll-free 1-888-442-4551. VA Life Insurance Programs are administered by the VA Regional Office and Insurance Center, P.O. Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101; toll-free 1-800-669-8477. Other VA facilities are listed on the last page. Unless noted otherwise, contact the VA Regional Office about benefits listed in this section. Following is only a summary of benefits.

Alcohol and Drug Dependency Treatment

Veterans without service-connected disabilities whose incomes exceed the threshold of free medical Care may be authorized treatment for alcohol and drug dependency only if the veteran agrees to pay the applicable co-payment. After hospitalization for alcohol or drug treatment, veterans may be eligible for outpatient care, or may be authorized to continue treatment or rehabilitation in private facilities, such as halfway houses, at VA expense

Burial Expense Reimbursement

VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive a pension or compensation, or who would have been entitled to compensation (as evidenced by a VA rating) but for receipt of military retirement pay. Eligibility also is established when death occurs in a VA facility, a State veterans' home, or a nursing home with which VA contracted. For service-connected deaths, there is no time limit for filing of reimbursement claims. In other deaths, claims must be filed within two years. VA will pay up to a \$300 plot or internment allowance when the veteran is not buried in a cemetery under U.S. Government jurisdiction if the veteran is discharged from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or if the

veteran was in receipt of compensation or pension, or would have been in receipt of compensation but for receipt of military retired pay, or if the veteran died while hospitalized by VA. As of November 1, 1990, the plot allowance is no longer payable based solely on wartime service. The deceased veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2000 instead of the \$300 basic allowance and the \$300 plot allowance if the veteran's death is service-connected. VA will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a service-connected veteran to the nearest national cemetery that has available gravesites.

Burial Flags

VA provides an American Flag to drape a veteran's casket, after which it may be given to the next of kin or associate of the deceased. The deceased veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have been either a wartime veteran or one who served after January 31, 1955, or a veteran who served at least one enlistment during peacetime, unless discharged or released sooner for a disability incurred in the line of duty. Also, National Guardsmen and Reservists who have 20 years of service are eligible. The VA Regional Office also may issue a flag for a veteran who is missing in action and is later presumed dead. Flags are available at any VA Regional Office and most local post offices.

Headstone or Grave Marker

A headstone or grave marker is available for any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service (other than for training) who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. National Guardsmen and Reservists who die while performing active duty for training are eligible. Also, National Guardsmen and Reservists who have 20 years of service are eligible. A headstone or grave marker is provided without charge and shipped to the cemetery designated. Applicants are cautioned to insure the correctness of all information. The benefit does not apply to members of a veteran's family who are buried in a private cemetery. Applications (DVA Form 40-1330) go to the Director, Office of Memorial Programs (403A), National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington D.C. 20420. Any VA Regional Office will provide information and other assistance in filling out an application.

Burial in National Cemeteries

Burial is available to any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service (other than for training) who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, at all national cemeteries having available grave space except Arlington. National Guardsmen and Reservists who die while performing active duty for training also are eligible. Burial also is available to an eligible veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor children, and, under certain circumstances, unmarried adult children. Applications should be made only at the time of death of the veteran or that of an eligible dependent by contacting the Superintendent of the national cemetery in which burial is desired.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Death due to service-connected disability DIC payments are authorized for surviving spouses, unmarried children under 18 (as well as certain disabled children and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA-approved school) and certain parents of service personnel or veterans who die on or after January 1, 1957, from (a) a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training, or (b) an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on inactive duty training, or (c) a disability compensable by VA. Death cannot be the result of willful misconduct.

Death Due To a Non-Service Connected Cause

DIC payments are authorized for surviving spouses, unmarried children under 18 (as well as certain disabled children and those between 18 and 23 if attending a VA-approved school), of certain veterans who were totally service-connected disabled at time of death but whose deaths were not the result of their service-connected disability, if (a) the veteran was continuously rated totally disabled for a period of 10 years or more or (b) if the veteran was rated for less than 10 years, was so rated for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of discharge from military service. If the death occurred after service, the veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. Payments under this provision are subject to offset by the amount received from judicial proceedings brought on account of the veteran's death

Disability Compensation

Monetary benefits are paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty. The separation or discharge from service must have been under conditions that were other than dishonorable. The benefits are related to the residual effects of the injury or disease. The amount of the benefit is usually changed by Congress annually and is not subject to federal or state income tax. Federal law prohibits the award of VA disability compensation concurrent with military retirement pay, except to the extent the retirement pay is waived.

Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31)

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program to help eligible veterans obtain or retain suitable employment. It may also assist eligible seriously disabled veterans achieve independence in daily living.

The program offers a number of services to help each eligible veteran reach his or her rehabilitation goal. These services include vocational counseling, educational training, skills training, financial aid, job assistance, and, if needed, medical and dental treatment.

Veterans with honorable discharges who incurred a service-connected disability of 20% or more while in service and are found in need of services to restore employability may be entitled to services. Veterans rated 10 % and meeting the criteria for a serious employment handicap may be entitled.

For additional information on the application procedure, eligibility and entitlement, basic termination dates, length of training, subsistence allowances and other information contact the nearest VA Regional Office. Each veteran who applies will be provided a vocational assessment, which will assist in determining individual entitlement.

Educational Training, Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty-Chapter 30)

For honorably discharged veterans who enter active duty in full-time status for the first time after June 30, 1985. Individuals holding active duty status with the National Guard after November 29, 1989, are also entitled. The participant must, with certain exceptions, serve

continuously on active duty for three years of a three-year enlistment, or for a lesser benefit, two years of an initial active duty obligation of less than three years. Two continuous years on active duty followed by four years of Selected Reserve Service will also qualify an individual. Participants must make \$1200 nonrefundable contribution. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Education, Dependents of Veterans (Chapter 35)

This benefit is for the children, spouses, widows and widowers of veterans whose deaths or permanent total disabilities were service-connected and for spouses and children of service persons missing in action or prisoners of war. Eligible persons, periods of eligibility, counseling, effects of marriage, length of training and type of training, monthly rates, and other information may be obtained from the nearest VA Regional Office. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Educational Training, Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve - Chapter 1606)

For members of the Selected Reserve and National Guard. The participant must have a 6-year obligation signed after June 30, 1985, complete active duty for training (IADT), have obtained a high school education or equivalent certificate before completion of IADT, and remain in good standing in a drilling unit. For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Educational Training, Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP - Chapter 1607)

For members of a reserve component who serve on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 under Title 10 U.S. Code for a contingency operation and who serves at least 90 consecutive days or more is eligible for chapter 1607. National Guard members also are eligible if their active duty is under section 502(f), title 32 U.S.C. and they serve for 90 consecutive days when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for a national emergency and is supported by federal funds. Individuals are eligible as soon as they reach the 90-day point whether or not they are currently on active duty. Dept. of Defense will fully identify

contingency operations that qualify for benefits under chapter 1607.

Disabled members who are injured or have an illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and are released from active duty before completing 90 consecutive days are also eligible for a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

For a current monthly benefit amount call the VA Regional Office at 1-888-442-4551 or visit their website at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Hospitalization Eligibility

In October 1996 Congress passed Public Law 104262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996. This legislation led the way for the creation of a Uniform Benefits Package -a standard health benefit plan available to all veterans. This Package not only opens up services to veterans, but also simplifies the process by which veterans can receive the services. To receive healthcare under the new program veterans must first be enrolled. Veterans can obtain application forms for enrollment by visiting, calling, or writing to their nearest VA healthcare facility or veteran's benefits office. Please refer to the listing on the back of this brochure for the facility nearest you.

Nursing Home Care

Skilled nursing care and related medical care in VA or private nursing homes is provided for convalescents or persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care. Eligibility for admission or transfer to VA nursing home care is the same as for hospitalization. Veterans who have a service-connected disability are given first priority. VA authorized care normally may not be provided in excess of six months except for veterans whose need for nursing home care is for a service-connected disability or for veterans who were hospitalized primarily for treatment of a service-connected disability. Nursing home care for non-service connected veterans whose income exceeds the income limit for hospital care may be authorized only if the veteran agrees to pay the applicable co-payment.

Domiciliary Care

Domiciliary care provides rehabilitative and long-term, health-maintenance care for veterans who require minimal medical care but who do not need the skilled nursing services provided in nursing homes. VA provides domiciliary care to veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of VA pension and to veterans determined to have no adequate means of support.

Job Finding Assistance

The U.S. Department of Labor is the federal agency responsible for providing employment assistance to veterans through local employment offices. The local Veterans Employment Representatives provide functional supervision of job counseling, testing and employment placement services provided to veterans. Priority in referral to job openings and training programs is given to eligible veterans, with preferential treatment for disabled veterans. In addition, the VA assists veterans who are seeking employment by providing information about on-the job and apprenticeship training opportunities through VA Regional Offices.

Life Insurance

For information about the government life insurance veterans may call the VA Insurance Center toll-free at 1-800 669-8477 between 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM ET to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries and reporting the death of the insured.

Loans on Homes, Condominiums, & Mobile Homes

For veterans and eligible unmarried surviving spouses of WWII, Korean War, post-Korean War, Vietnam era, and post Vietnam era, for spouses of service personnel officially listed as missing in action, or captured, for more than 90 days, and for service personnel who have served at least 90 days. The home loan program has been extended to members of the National Guard and Reserves who have served a total of at least 6 years and have received an honorable discharge. However, a higher funding fee will be required. This eligibility is in effect from November 1, 1992, through September 30, 2003. The loan may be used to buy, build, repair, altar, or improve a home. This also includes energy efficient improvements. The loan also may be used to buy a residential unit in certain condominium projects, to finance an existing home, and to buy a mobile

home with or without a lot. For additional information on loan maximums, additional entitlement, restoration and substitution of entitlement, financing, interest rates, insured loans, down payments and maturity, closing costs, safeguards, certification, or release of liability, call Loan Servicing at 1-800-729-5772.

Military Records

If the veteran cannot locate discharge and separation papers, duplicate copies may be obtained by writing the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Specify that a duplicate separation document or discharge is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, and the request must contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number (whichever is appropriate), and the exact or approximate years of service. If possible, use Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, which is available from VA offices, County Veterans Service Officers, and most veteran service organizations. A copy of the DD214 is sent to the state veterans affairs office of the home state of each veteran upon discharge or separation from active duty or initial active duty for training (IADT). Indiana veterans may contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs to see if a copy of their DD214 is on file in Indianapolis (317/232-3910 or toll-free at 1-800-400-4520

Non-Service-Connected Death Benefit

Surviving spouses and children of deceased veterans of the Spanish American War, Mexican border period, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam era, or the Gulf War may be eligible for support as the survivors of a veteran who died from non-service connected causes if they have limited income. The veteran must have had 90 days service, unless discharged or retired sooner for service-connected disability, and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. If the veteran died in service, not in the line of duty, benefits may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable active service

Pension

Veterans may be eligible for support if they have limited income when they have 90 days or more of active service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. Their discharge from active duty must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. They must be permanently and

totally disabled for reasons neither traceable to military service nor to willful misconduct. Payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to an established support level. This pension is not payable to those who have assets that can be used to provide adequate maintenance.

Persian Gulf, Agent Orange, and Ionizing Radiation

Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War or who claim exposure to Agent Orange or atomic radiation are provided with free comprehensive medical examinations, including base-line laboratory tests and other tests determined necessary by an examining physician to determine current health status. Veterans wishing to participate should contact the nearest VA health care facility to request an examination. VA also provides priority treatment to any Vietnam-era veteran whom, while serving in Vietnam, may have been exposed to dioxin or to a toxic substance in an herbicide or defoliant used for military purposes. Priority healthcare services are available for any veteran exposed to ionizing radiation from the detonation of a nuclear device in connection with nuclear tests of the American occupation in Japan during specified dates. Contact the VA Regional Office for expiration dates for treatments. Marital and family counseling is provided to veterans of the Persian Gulf War and their spouses and children. The counseling is provided at VA medical centers and vet centers.

Reemployment Rights

Under the Veterans' Reemployment Rights (VRR) Law, a person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the Armed Forces, either voluntarily or involuntarily, may be entitled to return to his or her civilian job after discharge or release from active duty if certain requirements are met. This Law covers those who rendered active duty service, initial active duty for training, active duty for training or inactive duty for training. The Law also protects a veteran from discharge without just cause for one year from the date of reemployment, and a Reservist or Guardsmen from discharge without just cause for six months after returning home from initial active duty for training. The Law prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantage of employment because of one's obligation as a member of a Reserve or Guard unit. A veteran must apply to the pre-service employer within 90 days after separation from active duty. Reserve and Guard members returning from initial active duty for training must apply within 31 days. Questions on the requirements to be met by the veteran or requests for assistance should be directed to the

Department of Labor's director for Veterans Employment and Training (DVET) for the state in which the employer is located. Consult telephone directories under U.S.

Department of Labor or call 1-800-442-2838 for the appropriate DVET phone number

Unemployment Compensation

Unemployment compensation to veterans provides a weekly income for a limited period of time to help veterans meet basic needs while searching for employment. Generally, benefits are not paid to those receiving certain educational assistance or vocational subsistence allowances from VA. Veterans should apply immediately after leaving service at their nearest local state employment service office and present their DD Form 214 to establish their type of separation from service.

Service Organizations

The service organizations listed below are accredited to represent veterans and their dependents in the filing of claims. All are located at 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis.

American Legion,
RM 325 317/916-3605

AMVETS,
RM 377 317/916-3612

Disabled American Veterans,
RM 399 317/916-3615

Military Order of the Purple Heart
RM 330 317/916-3623

Paralyzed Veterans,
RM 328 317/916-3626

Veterans of Foreign Wars,
RM 374 317/916-3629

Vietnam Veterans of America 765/288-4015

This brochure is designed to provide general and brief information on Indiana and federal benefits enacted by the Indiana General Assembly and the United States Congress.

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VA Clinics (continued)

Richmond VA Outpatient Clinic
4351 South A Street
Richmond, Indiana 47374
(765) 973-6915

VA Health Care Center New Albany
811 Northgate Blvd
New Albany, Indiana 47150
(812) 542-0104

Vet Centers

3833 N. Meridian St
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 927-6440

311 N. Weinbach Ave.
Evansville, IN 47711
(812) 473-5993

528 West Berry St.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46802
(219) 426-5431

Gary Area Vet. Center
6505 Broadway
Merrillville, IN. 46410
(219) 736-5633

National, State and other Veterans' Cemeteries in Indiana

Marion National Cemetery
1700 East 38 Street
Marion, IN 46953
Phone: 765-674-0284
Fax: 765-674-4521

Crown Hill National Cemetery
700 W. 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
Phone: 765-674-0284
Fax: 765-674-4521

New Albany National Cemetery
1943 Ekin Avenue
New Albany, IN 47150
Phone: 812-948-5234
Fax: 502 893 6612

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1415 North Gate Road
Madison, IN 47250
Phone: 812-273-9220
FAX: 812-273-9221
E-mail: jvmc@seidata.com

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS**

302 W. Washington Street, Room E120

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738

Telephone: 317/232-3910

Fax: 317/232-7721

TOLL FREE (In State) 1-800-400-4520

Web Address: www.in.gov/veteran

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
REGIONAL OFFICE**

575 N. Pennsylvania Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204-1581

Telephone toll free: 1-800-827-1000

Fax Number: 317/226-5178

VA Loan Guaranty toll free 1-800-729-5772

**U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs Educational
Benefits Office**

PO Box 66830

St. Louis, MO 63166-6830

Phone 1-888-442-4551

Web site www.va.gov/education

U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Home Loan Guarantee Office

Phone 1-888-244-6711

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